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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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Art

JOHN HOUCK

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In one of the wittiest shows of the season, the American photographer continues to confound and impress with pictures that look digitally manipulated but are, in fact, rigorously analog. Each of the layered, trompe-l'oeil images here incorporates at least two slight variations on the same still-life. An example: after taking a picture of a bike leaning against a white wall, Houck paints a cartoon hand gripping the handlebar's shadow and shoots again. Elsewhere, surfaces suddenly tilt, and shadows fall in several directions at once; throughout, the rules of the known world no longer seem to apply.

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